

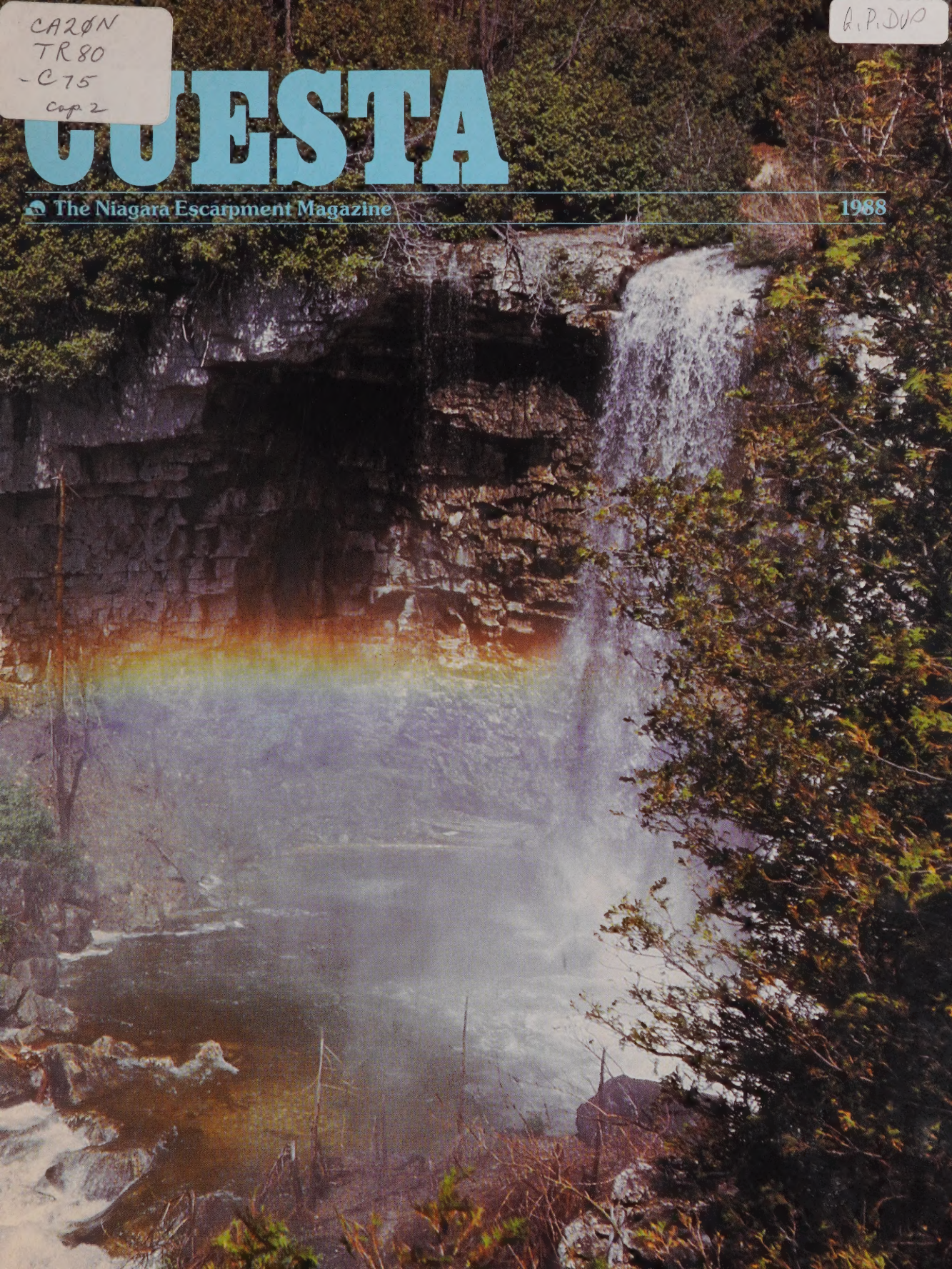
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# GUESTA

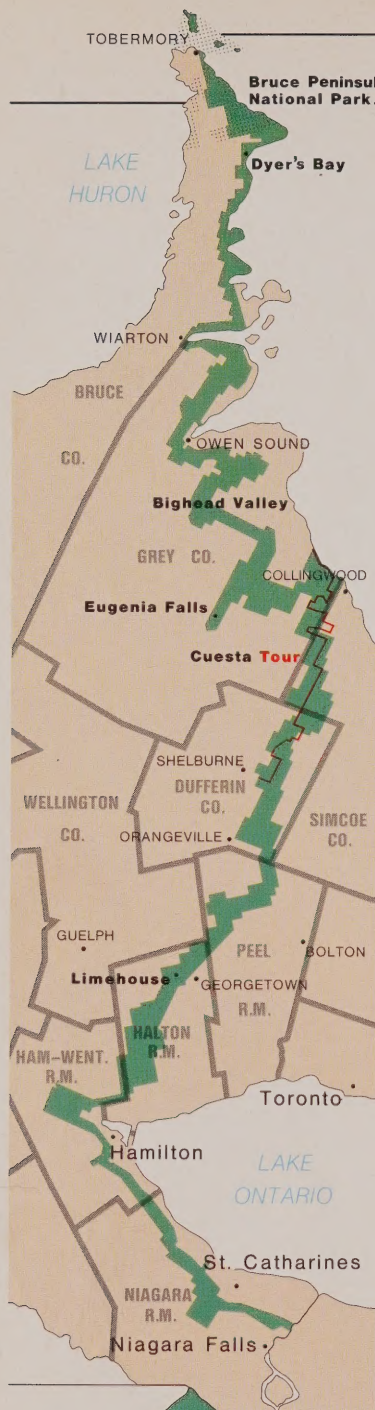
 The Niagara Escarpment Magazine

1988





# CONTENTS



## CUESTA

Originally a Spanish term meaning flank or slope of a hill, in geological terms means a ridge composed of gently dipping rock strata with a long gradual slope on one side, and a relatively steep scarp on the other

.....Niagara Escarpment Plan Area

## ESCARPMENT OUTLOOK

An award for compatible Escarpment development; woodlot management in sensitive areas; new national parks in Bruce County; Escarpment resource centre; Carolinian Canada



## LARKWHISTLE

by Lorraine Brown

Horticulturalists flock to Patrick Lima and John Scanlon's grand experiment in gardening in Bruce County where the earth is sweet but the weather is anything but.



## EXPLORING THE ESCARPMENT

Cuesta explores portions of Dufferin, Simcoe and Grey Counties—all in one tour. With our handy map and guide, you can too!



## NIAGARA ESCARPMENT PLAN UPDATE

The Niagara Escarpment Plan ensures that future generations will enjoy this provincial and national treasure as much as we do today. The Plan turns three this year.

## GOLD!

by Andrew Armitage

In 1852, the discovery of a motherlode of glittering "ore" at the foot of Eugenia Falls completely changed the lives of Artemesia Township pioneers. For awhile.



## OUT OF THE LIMELIGHT

by Rilla Hewer

Once a booming industrial community fueled by the rock of the Escarpment, Limehouse is a mysterious shadow of its past.



## THE ELOQUENT ART OF GEORGE McLEAN

by Rilla Hewer

Wildlife artist George McLean finds his inspiration on the Escarpment. McLean says it's not always a pretty picture.



Editor: Richard Murzin Assistant Editor: Rilla Hewer  
Graphics and Layout: Robert Pepper

Cover: Eugenia Falls: Gold at the end of the rainbow?

All photos NEC staff unless otherwise credited

CUESTA IS AN ANNUAL PUBLICATION OF THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT COMMISSION.

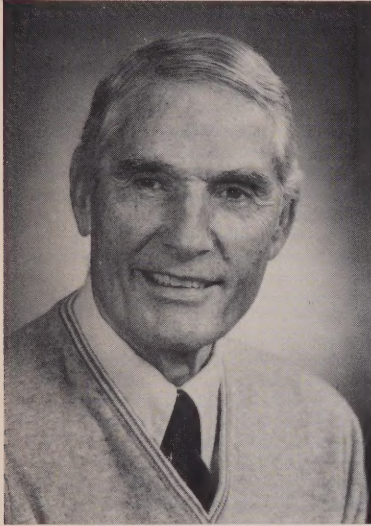
Niagara Escarpment Commission

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# The Chairman's Report



IT'S BEEN A BUSY AND PRODUCTIVE year for the Niagara Escarpment Commission. In my first year here, I've been listening to a wide range of concerns and suggestions from many constituents—ratepayers, municipal officials, conservationists, landowners, conservation authorities, and members of the Provincial legislature, to name but a few.

Above all else, these conversations are a constant reminder that the preservation of the Niagara Escarpment is a challenging and complex responsibility, one which the Commission members and I embrace with a strong sense of corporate purpose. Our mission is to conserve the Escarpment and its vicinity substantially as a continuous natural environment and, at the same time, to allow for compatible development.

During the 12 years of planning following passage of Escarpment legislation in 1973, the forces of preservation and development were strong and compelling and, more often than not, in opposition. However, the result of that dialogue was the Niagara Escarpment Plan approved by the Government in 1985. The Plan is proving to be a practical framework upon which to balance the need to grow and the need to preserve.

During 1987, the Niagara Escarpment Commission continued to build on the consultative process. For example, as well as one-to-one meetings with Escarpment municipalities, residents and interest groups, we hosted a series of municipal and public forums. In this way we are drawing on the combined wisdom of people whose interests may vary but who have the Niagara Escarpment as their common bond.

These activities are more broadly based in our renewed commitment to com-

munications, one of the key responsibilities assigned to the Commission when the Ontario Government announced its Plan implementation program in 1986.

We have launched a number of significant initiatives in this regard, for example:

- A Development Achievement Award has been created to honour landowners for excellent stewardship and careful development in harmony with the Escarpment landscape.
- To show the ecological and financial benefits of sound woodlot management in "Escarpment Natural" areas, the Commission is conducting a three-year demonstration project in conjunction with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ontario Heritage Foundation.
- The Commission and the Ontario Heritage Foundation have begun to develop an Escarpment education component for elementary schools and for use in Escarpment-park interpretive centres and school boards' outdoor education centres.
- The Commission is working with two travel associations—Festival Country and Georgian Lakelands—to encourage a wider appreciation of the Escarpment's recreational benefits and natural beauty within the context of the local economic benefits of increased tourism.

The consideration of Development Permit Applications continues to be the primary administrative function of the Commission. The Commission is currently receiving about 100 applications per month—historically the highest volume since development control was established in 1975.

In tandem with, and complementing this unprecedented level of activity, we are engaged in intensive ongoing policy review and Plan amendment processing. Since the Niagara Escarpment Plan was approved, the Commission has examined 38 Plan amendments for consideration by the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

The Commission's priority for 1988 is to continue its dialogue with all organizations and individuals who have an interest in the Niagara Escarpment.

I am confident that our mission can be achieved—with input from all people affected by the Escarpment and for all the people of Ontario.

Sincerely,

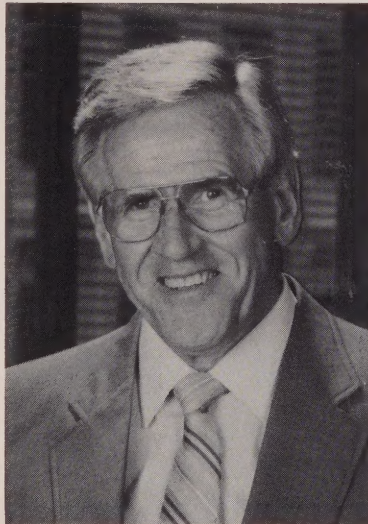
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Terk Bayly".

G.H.U. (Terk) Bayly

Chairman,

Niagara Escarpment Commission

## Minister's Greeting



IT HAS BEEN MY PLEASURE TO meet and talk with so many of you who are dedicated to the delicate task of balancing preservation of natural areas with land use.

I welcome the dialogue that got under-

way last November when more than 170 people participated in municipal forums held in Burlington and Kimberley. Apart from the timely and useful review of where we are at and where we are going with the Niagara Escarpment program, I believe we all benefitted from the opportunity to share our concerns—and our vision.

During the next months, I look ahead to similar meetings with public interest groups to hear their ideas as well. I am confident that on-going dialogue with municipalities, the public and all Escarpment interest groups will ensure we meet our many challenges to keep this unique provincial treasure.

I would like to thank the Niagara Escarpment Commission for its diligence, as well as the residents of Ontario who share in the commitment for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John Eakins".

John Eakins

Minister of Municipal Affairs



# ESCARPMENT OUTLOOK

## AWARD ENCOURAGES EXTRA EFFORT BY LANDOWNERS

THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT COMMISSION (NEC) will present Achievement Awards to recognize exceptional development projects in the Escarpment area. The awards reflect the Niagara Escarpment legislation and Plan which provide for development which is compatible with the Escarpment's natural environment.

The Escarpment's natural landscape is, to a large degree, retained through the Niagara Escarpment Development Permit System. Approvals to build on, landscape, or otherwise alter the environment are conditional. Conditions can range from requirements for detailed landscaping plans to limiting the height of a structure so it won't interrupt the visual flow of the land. Whatever the case, NEC staff are always on hand to assist landowners throughout the development process, beginning to end.

From time to time, the NEC is pleasantly surprised by a few special landowners. These are people and organizations whose personal commitment to the Escarpment shines in the creativity they bring to developing their properties in harmony with the natural environment.

These landowners will now be honoured with a limited-edition award that recognizes their special efforts to preserve the vitality of the Escarpment.

The Niagara Escarpment Development Achievement Award is a 3" x 12" x 3" solid acrylic block with embedded type and engraving, created by Lockwood Design Associates of Toronto in the manner of an artistic piece of contemporary decorative sculpture. Sharon Lockwood, head of the award-winning design firm, observed that fine acrylic as a medium provides beauty and clarity approaching that of crystal, but with more durable resilience and at a fraction of the cost.

Seen through the block from the front is a symmetrical grid of squares superimposed over an etched profile of the Niagara Escarpment. The interplay between the precise grid and the soft lines of the Escarpment suggest the potential for harmony between well-planned land development and the natural environment.

Engraved on the bottom of the block are trilobite fossils from St. Catharines and Collingwood Township, dating back to the Upper Ordovician and Silurian periods, from up to 445 million years ago, when vast areas of the province were covered by shallow seas rich in prehistoric marine life. These specimens are from the collection of the Royal Ontario Museum, which assisted in their selection and in making casts for engraving dies.

The fossils are invisible from the front but, as you move closer, refraction inside the block gives the illusion that they are floating to the surface where award recipient details and the signatures of Ontario Premier David Peterson and Commission Chairman Turk Bayly appear along with the NEC and Provincial logos.

The Development Achievement Awards, funded through the Ontario Heritage Foundation Niagara Escarpment Trust Fund, are limited to a maximum of three winners per year from each of the eight regions and counties along the Escarpment. The first series of awards will be presented during the spring and summer of 1988.



The following landowners will receive the Niagara Escarpment Development Achievement Award at presentation ceremonies later this year:

- Vito and Carmela Golia, Niagara-on-the-Lake
- David and Ronald Ciancone, Ancaster Old Mill, Ancaster
- Hamilton Region Conservation Authority, Administration Centre, Ancaster
- Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Sturgeon, Burlington
- Mr. & Mrs. Gottfried Plansky, Milton
- Ellen and John Pennie, Caledon
- John and Mary Tingle, Caledon
- The Marien Family, Mono Township
- William M. Franks, Nottawasaga Township
- Dr. Allan Stone, Euphrasia Township
- Alistair A. Lessels, Collingwood Township
- Grey County Highways Department, Beaver Valley Lookout, Euphrasia Township
- Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, Spirit Rock Conservation Area, Amabel Township.

## PROFIT AND THE GENTLE LOGGER

WOODLOT MANAGEMENT IN THE MOST protected areas of the Niagara Escarpment may profit both landowners and the natural environment. Harvesting of firewood and timber through the guidance of a forest-management "prescription" can bring financial returns without degrading the ecosystem. In some cases, this approach may actually improve the environment.

The Niagara Escarpment Commission, in cooperation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and with funding from the Ontario Heritage Foundation, has undertaken a three-year pilot



project to demonstrate the economic impact of ecologically sound woodlot management, including its effects on timber yield.

This practical demonstration will be conducted by Guelph-based forestry consultant Peter Williams on a total of 12 private and public woodlots in Dufferin, Grey and Simcoe counties. The project is consistent with the Niagara Escarpment Plan for land-use in "Escarpment Natural" areas—the most restrictive designation under the Plan.

Its scientific and economic findings will be useful beyond the Escarpment, in forested areas where conservation is a primary consideration but economic returns are also desirable or necessary.

Norm Tennant, Unit Forester in the Ministry of Natural Resources' Owen Sound District says that it's tempting for landowners to reap a quick profit in one year by cutting trees that just meet the 16-inch diameter requirement for commercial saw-logs (trees used for boards and veneer). But considering the 15 to 20-year cutting cycle in saw-log production, Tennant says this may be shortsighted compared to the value of a sustained harvest over a number of years.

"The woodlots management demonstration will provide us with growth data so we can project volumes of timber over the long term," he says. "And if you can do that, you can also project your dollar return over the long term."

"Managed Forest Assistance" is a regular service offered by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Landowners can call their district office of the MNR for on-site consultation, after which (subject to the owner's permission) the Ministry will mark trees for cutting. For saw-logs, the MNR can assist in marketing by advertising the proposed harvest in its district timber sale notice. All that's left for the landowner is to negotiate with the logging contractor and to observe the cutting operation.

"With selective cutting, we can concentrate the growth of the woodlot to trees of better quality," says project consultant Peter Williams. "Those trees will have broader crowns and greater leaf area so they'll be healthier—better able to withstand environmental stress and pests. You'll have a more resilient forest."

But there's more to woodlot management than creating forests of commercial-grade timber along the Escarpment, Williams says; "It's important to maintain a diversity of tree species. We aren't aiming to turn the landscape into neat, high-yield plantations."

Tennant adds: "There's more than trees living in these natural areas. So we're careful to retain nest trees and den trees for wildlife and to maintain the habitat of forest-floor plants such as wildflowers and ferns."

In fact, woodlot management may improve plant and animal habitats. Some forest lands, particularly in Grey County, were virtually stripped for firewood during the early part of our century.

Over subsequent years, this resulted in densely packed forests of evenly aged trees, leaving little room for underlying plant species. Thinning this kind of stand improves chances for the natural succession of lower-growing plants and ground covers.

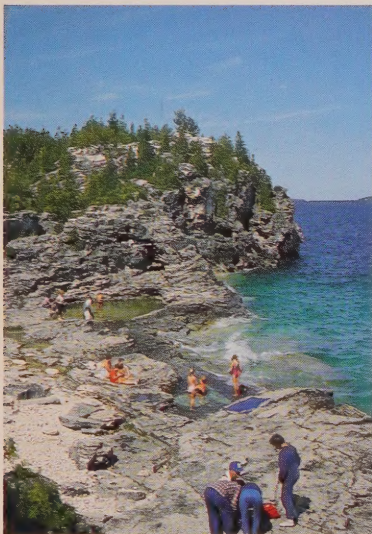
Results from the Niagara Escarpment Woodlots Management Demonstration Project will be circulated in late 1989.



## NEW NATIONAL PARKS IN THE BRUCE

A YEAR AGO **CUESTA** REPORTED THAT an agreement in principle had been reached between the federal and provincial governments for the establishment of the long-awaited Bruce Peninsula National Park. On July 20, 1987 it became official. In a festive, well-attended ceremony at Tobermory, Federal Minister of the Environment, Tom McMillan and Ontario Minister of Natural Resources, Vincent Kerrio jointly signed Ontario's two newest national parks into existence.

Almost half the 270 km<sup>2</sup> area of the new parks is composed of lands that the province has transferred to Environment Canada Parks, including Cyprus Lake and Fathom Five Provincial Parks, totalling 7,000 hectares of land and capital investments valued at \$8.5 million. The official transfer of these lands took place on December 1, 1987. These parks, along with Flowerpot Island, are now part of the new Bruce Peninsula National Park. Fathom Five is the country's first national park which is completely underwater.



Over the next ten years the federal government expects to spend approximately \$14 million toward park development, including the acquisition of privately owned lands within the park planning area from willing sellers.

A citizens' advisory committee including representatives from local government, community groups, Native Peoples' organizations, the Bruce Trail Association, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and other interested groups has been formed to work with Environment Canada to set planning guidelines for the new parks.

Nineteenth century sail and steam vessel wrecks, an assortment of flora, including 43 species of orchids, some 300 bird species, and of course the spectacular cliffs and islands at the tip of the Niagara Escarpment are just some of the features of our national heritage preserved in these new parks.



## FUNDS TO PROTECT CAROLINIAN ZONE

ON JUNE 1, 1987 THE MINISTRIES OF Natural Resources and Citizenship and Culture (now Culture & Communications) jointly announced that the province is committing \$1.8 million to the Carolinian Canada Project. The provincial funds match an equal amount pledged by World Wildlife Fund Canada, The Nature Conservancy of Canada and Wildlife Habitat Canada.

The Carolinian "life zone" is located in extreme southern Canada, south of an imaginary line from Grand Bend on Lake Huron to Toronto. It includes the Niagara Escarpment area between Hwy. 401 and the Niagara River. Long summers, mild winters, low snowfall and moderate rainfall distinguish it as Canada's warmest region, containing species of plants and animals that occur nowhere else in the country. Coastal dunes, marshes, tall-grass prairies and remnant deciduous forests are included in the zone, along with threatened and endangered species such as the Eastern Cougar, West Virginia White Butterfly and Cucumber Tree.

Naturally, it's also an area of intense farming and urban development with few remaining protected lands. And the pressures for further development are strong.

In 1983, this realization led to the formation of the Carolinian Canada Project, a joint effort of the World Wildlife Fund (Canada), the Nature Conservancy of Canada, and the Ontario Heritage Foundation, with technical support by the Ministry of Natural Resources. So far, 36 critical natural areas have been identified, including the Jordan Valley, Short Hills and the Dundas Valley along the Niagara Escarpment.

Money has been allocated to land protection, involving both private land stewardship and land acquisition.

The Carolinian Canada Steering Committee administers the program with representation from all provincial and private partner agencies. Founding Chairman, Terk Bayly (Chairman of the Niagara Escarpment Commission) was acclaimed June 1, 1987.

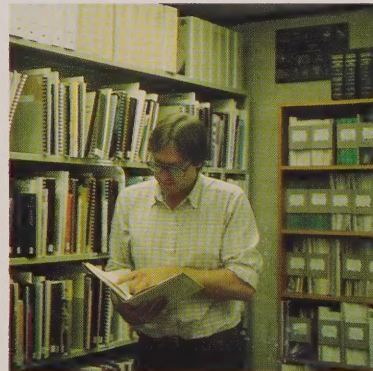
## CALLING INFORMATION

LOCATED IN THE GEORGETOWN OFFICE of the Commission, the Niagara Escarpment Resource Centre is a new research library which brings together a wide variety of Escarpment background information. Books, maps, articles, periodicals, reports and over two decades of studies cover topics ranging from archeology to zoology.

Organizing and updating the Resource Centre involved collecting materials from a variety of sources including government ministries and agencies, libraries, universities, municipalities, conservation authorities and publishing houses. All of this information has now been housed in one location, organized, catalogued and made easily accessible.

Funding for the reorganization was provided from the Niagara Escarpment Fund, administered by the Ontario Heritage Foundation, with additional and ongoing support provided by the Commission.

The Resource Centre is open to the public during regular office hours, five days a week, 8:30 to 4:30. No appointment is necessary and Commission staff are available to provide assistance.

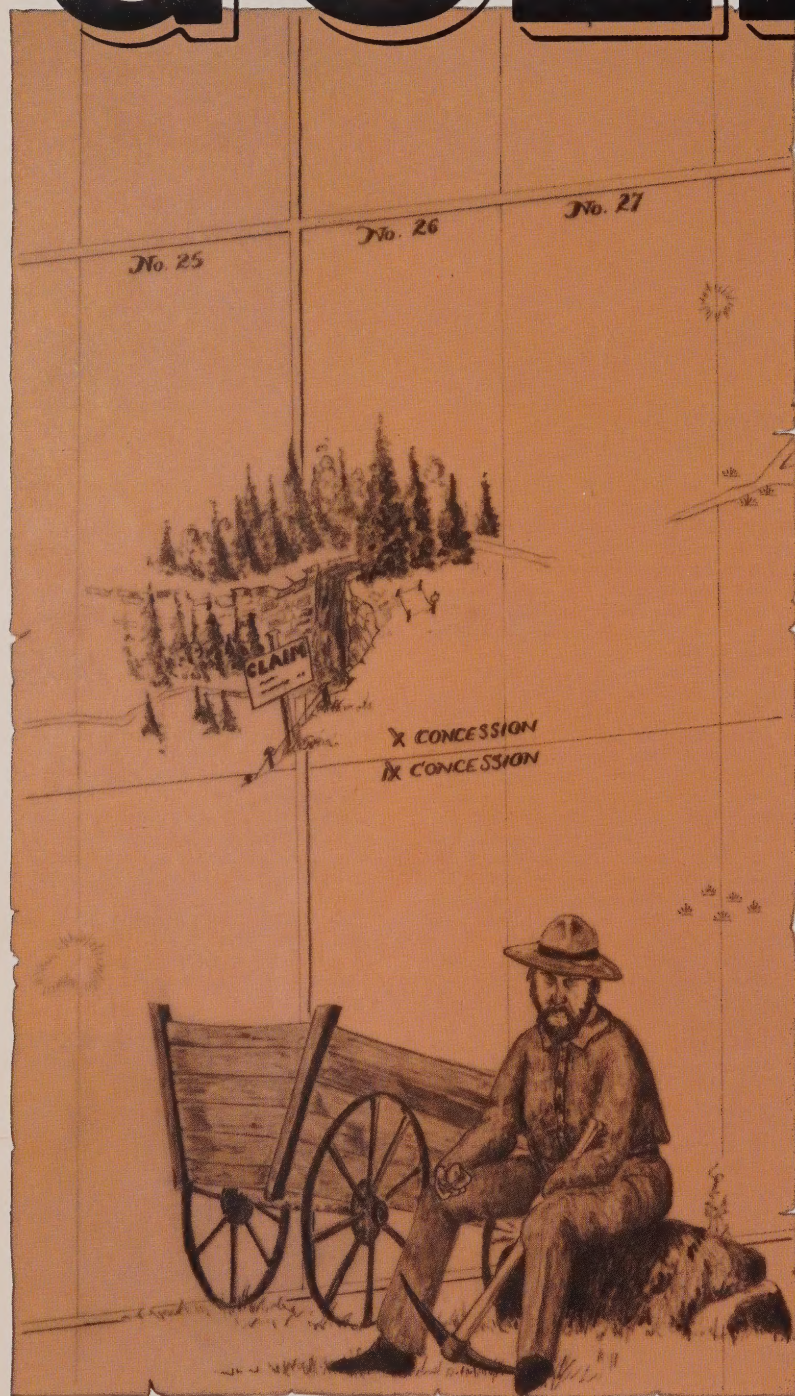




# GOLD!

**With visions of wealth  
beyond dreams,  
the fever hit  
Grey County.**

*by Andrew Armitage*



**"GOLD, THEY'VE FOUND GOLD!"**

The cry bounced from tavern to tavern, was picked up in the streets and echoed in every home. Within hours of the arrival of the great news, farm implements had been thrown down and, with picks and shovels slung across their shoulders, the men were hoofing for the gold fields.

The Klondike? Northern Ontario? California? The unlikely location of the gold strike was none of those fabled "Lands of Croesus". It was Artemesia Township in the County of Grey. The year was 1852.

Artemesia, 35 miles south of Owen Sound, five miles east of Flesherton, was just being opened up for homesteading. Like many of her pioneer sister townships, Artemesia gave way unwillingly to the axe and the plough. Heavily forested, the Township was a popular refuge for partridge, rabbit, deer and bear—but hardly man.

But here and there across Artemesia's rolling hills, a patch of land or two began to show baldly from the forest, miniature clearings that would one day become rich farms. In the meantime, life in the Queen's Bush was a matter of staying alive, hun-



ting, planting a few crops among the stumps, raising a pig or two, subsisting.

Artemesia had been surveyed in 1849 but not every square had been walked by Surveyor Charles Rankin. There were many swamps and rivers and other natural wonders still unseen by white people. One of these was a mile long stretch of the Beaver River.

This particular mile of the Beaver was "discovered" in 1852. An early settler by the name of Brownlee (local historians often didn't bother with first names) left his small farm holding near the future village of Flesherston one fall day to hunt for his winter larder.

Heading due east, Brownlee had little luck in the thick forest and by mid-day, he had trekked five miles into the wilderness. The distant sound of water guided his direction.

The din grew and ahead, just over the trees, Brownlee saw mist and bits of colour from dozens of small rainbows. A few more steps through the thick underbrush and he found himself standing on the brink of a great gorge.

Below, the river plunged over the edge and fell 70 feet over a series of rock cataracts before ending in a foaming pool in the valley below. Brownlee had just discovered the Falls of Eugenia (misnamed for Empress-Consort Eugenie of Napoleon III fame) and the Cuckoo Valley.

Not a tree had been cut from the banks of the gorge. The scene was wild and primitive and Brownlee soon found himself back telling his nearest neighbour about the wonders of the waterfall.

The two of them, Brownlee and his (unnamed) neighbour returned to the falls at a later date and descended the gorge to get a better view of the cascade of water. Here, deep in the valley cut by eons of water, the two pioneers made a discovery that might have changed the history of Grey County.

Among the large rocks that lined the water course a glint of yellow shone. "For all the world," they thought, "it looks just like gold." Sparkling around them wherever they turned was undoubtedly a valley of gold ore so rich they would have little to do but pick it up from the floor of the falls.

With visions of wealth beyond dreams they climbed out of the gorge after first packing away a few pieces of the rich metal. On the long trail home they swore each other to secrecy, not once but possibly a dozen times, all the while looking over their shoulders to see if they had been followed.

Neither Brownlee nor his neighbour had ever seen gold in its natural state, much less mined it. It's possible that neither man had ever held a gold coin or owned any item that contained the valuable metal. But

within days the fledgling miners had made camp at the falls and were hard at work becoming rich men.

Sad to say, their isolation did not last long. Brownlee, prior to his gold strike, had been rather vocal about the wonderful waterfall that he had discovered.

Looking up from their gathering of gold, the happy miners discovered that they were being watched by several families who had made the long hike from Flesherston to tour the falls. What they were doing below was at once recognized by the tourists who fled at once to snatch up tools and other provisions.

Within days the newly discovered falls, isolated as it was, became the population centre of Grey County. A road was hacked over the five miles from the Sydenham Road and huge wagons carried heavy equipment and eager miners to the scene. The forest around the falls quickly fell to the axes of the hordes as rude log cabins formed an overnight boom town.

News of the gold strike soon reached civilization. The "Comet" in Owen Sound reported on November 6, 1852 that, "This morning we are all taken by surprise by a report just arrived from the diggings that 150 men are at work in the gold mines of Artemesia, about 35 miles from our good town."

The Comet continued: "The messenger that brought a specimen of the ore says that most of the people on the New Line are hastening to the scene of action. Report also says that they have had a row there already which has resulted in a man being killed or nearly so. We hear that many from this town are getting ready to seek their fortunes—may they prosper."

The Editor ended with the following pessimism: "As for ourselves we believe that 'a rolling stone gathers no moss'—that 'easy come, easy go'. So we intend to stick to the 'Comet'—then we will know how we get our money, and no mistake, by hard work, and we further intend to give our subscribers a new and improved Vol. of the 'Comet' next year, come what will."

But the settlers on the New Line (Sydenham Road) could have cared less for the opinions of a country newspaper editor in far off Owen Sound. They were on the site and had seen the gold encrusted quartz. At the height of the "gold rush" over 200 men fought for a foothold on the slippery rocks. One slipped from his perch and plunged into the pool of water at the base of the falls, nearly drowning in his heavy work clothes. Others pressed their luck by working the banks of the river at the top of the falls where the crowd grew so thick that several miners were shoved into the torrent and almost swept over the edge.

Up came the ore, jute sack after jute sack. Lengthy discussions were held each

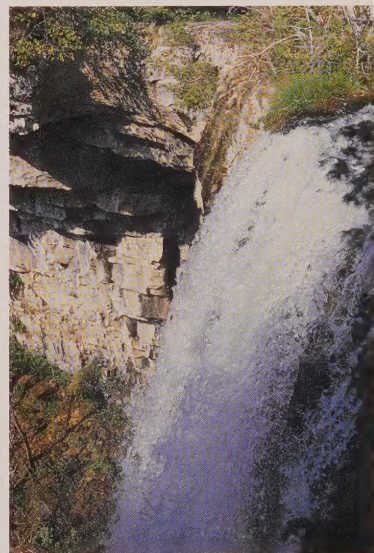
night around camp fires concerning the quality and gold content. Day dreams and night fantasies possessed the miners as their "wealth" grew.

But doubts and rumours of doubts were soon heard. "What was this gold worth?" asked several cautious miners. Finally, a "native runner" was given a sack containing a small amount of ore and sent to Toronto. Meanwhile work continued with renewed vigour. In a few short days the doubters would be "squashed" and wealth would have won out.

Word came. Worthless iron pyrite. Work stopped. Sheepishly, the miners became once again—farmers. Silently they loaded their wagons or got their packs onto their backs—and departed without once looking back. There was meat and wood to be brought in for the long winter ahead and the weeks at the "diggings" would have to be paid for by many hours of hard work on the farm.

The falls remained. Eugenia was silent and scarred but discovered. Only one man made any money from the gold rush and he was a wily farmer who carried home a bag of glittering rock for which he received twenty shillings from a neighbour who had not yet heard it was worthless.

Men would joke about the "rush" in later years but for the moment the stolid Irish and Scots pioneers wanted only to forget the embarrassment of it all. Some, it's reported, refused to even look at the falls until six years after the gold rush. Maybe then, they realized the falls was a treasure in itself.

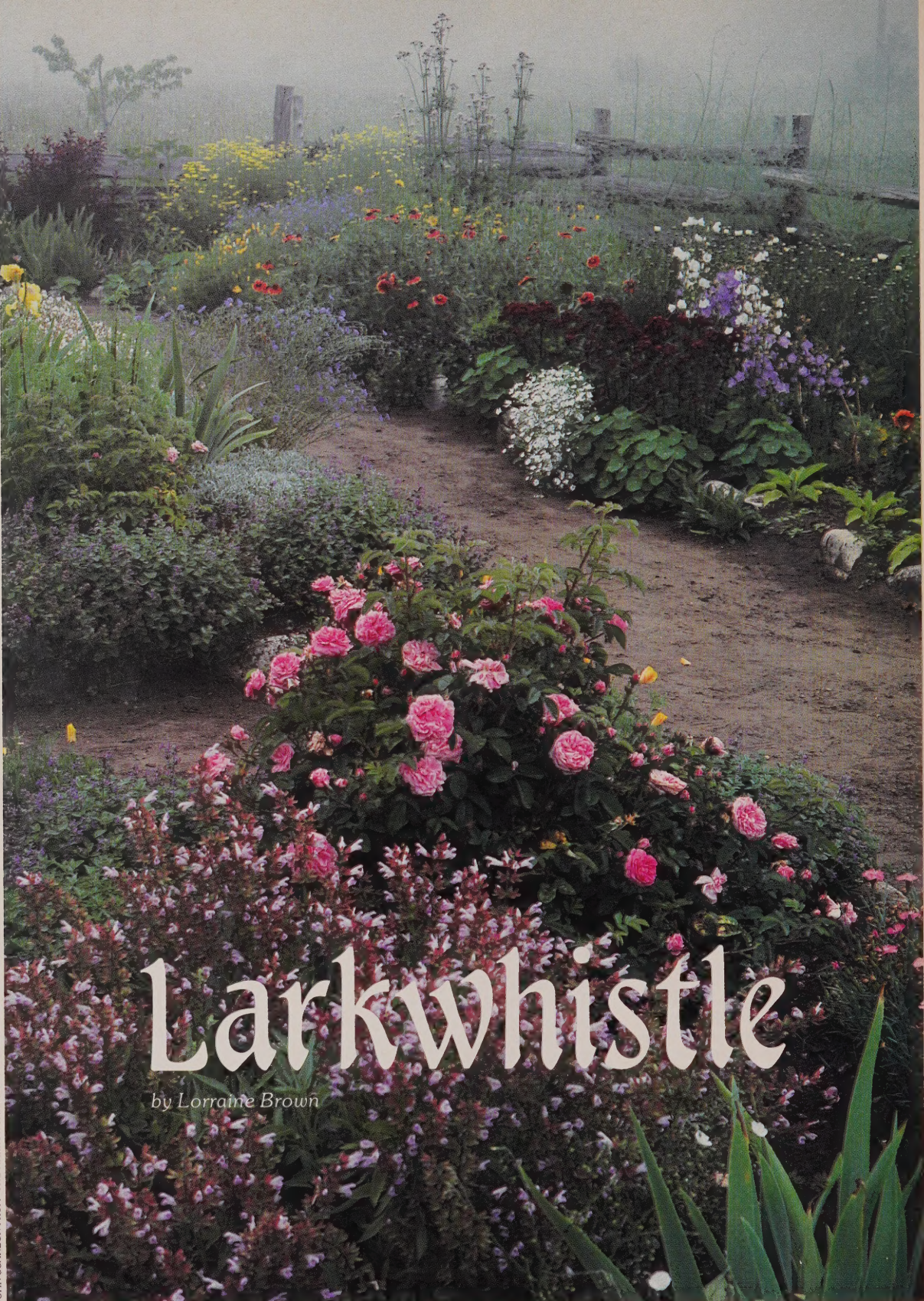


Reprinted in part from "Owen Sound: The Day The Governor General Came To Town And Other Tales" by Andrew Armitage; published by The Boston Mills Press.



# Larkwhistle

by Lorraine Brown





FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS, people have been flocking to a site near the northern end of the Bruce Trail. They aren't hikers, but gardeners, and they're heading up the Bruce Peninsula to visit a small jewel of a garden tended by John Scanlon and Patrick Lima. The two men are partners in a fascinating horticultural project known as Larkwhistle.

Less than an acre in size, but surrounded by 100 acres of abandoned farmland, Larkwhistle is on the eastern side of the Bruce Peninsula, about half an hour north of Wiarton, between the villages of Miller Lake and Dyer's Bay on the Dyer's Bay Road.

John and Patrick started Larkwhistle in 1975. They had both recently graduated from university, and wanted to raise their own food and try their hand at flower gardening as well. A professor friend offered them the use of his land near Dyer's Bay.

Today, Larkwhistle has become a well-known mecca for Ontario gardeners. Horticultural clubs charter buses to the remote site, and are delighted by John and Patrick's fascinating and instructive tours of their garden. In spring, Larkwhistle is glorious with tiny species tulips, unusual varieties of daffodils, and hundreds of other little known spring bulbs. From mid-June till the end of July, the garden blazes with peonies, lilies, roses, herbs, vines—hundreds of cultivated, native, and semi-wild species. In fall, the garden rivals the beauty of the surrounding landscape, with phlox, anemone, and late-blooming clematis.

The northern end of the Niagara Escarpment consists mainly of rocky limestone outcrops—not a place where one would expect to find good gardening conditions. But Larkwhistle is located in a low area where deep sandy loam has accumulated. Although Patrick describes the area as a "frost pocket" that floods in spring, the garden is also blessed with well-drained rich soil with almost no stones.

The underlying limestone has produced a "sweet", lime-rich soil, and Larkwhistle takes full advantage of this. Dianthus, the tiny lime-loving carnations also known as pinks, grow on the limestone cliffs of Dover. But they can also be found edging the flower beds at Larkwhistle, in varying shades from white through pale pink to scarlet. Gypsophila, or babies' breath, whose love of lime is betrayed by its Latin name, grows next to alpine saxifrages, the "stone-breakers" that thrive in sweet soil.

Because of Larkwhistle's northern location, the growing season is fairly short. Frost is not uncommon during the first week of June, when early summer flowers are in bud. Larkwhistle once even had a light frost in July.

John and Patrick have actually taken ad-

vantage of their northern location. Their garden is full of alpine plants such as edelweiss and primula that thrive on heavy winter snowfall, moist springs, and dry summers.

When it comes to vegetable gardening, the partners have found a way around the short growing season. Heat-loving crops like eggplant and tomatoes are started early in a small greenhouse, then moved out into the cold frames. Pepper plants are babied the whole summer inside a greenhouse of old storm windows.

Many of Larkwhistle's unusual plant species have been chosen from seed catalogues from around the world, but John and Patrick have carefully introduced local flora to round out their exquisite garden.

Visiting the grown-over gardens of abandoned peninsula farms they've collected florentine iris, species of artemisia (wormwood), meadowsweet, musk mallow and



JOHN SCANLON FROM "THE HARROWSMITH ILLUSTRATED BOOK OF HERBS"

Patrick Lima: "The garden is an expression of the northern Escarpment."

costmary. Many of these plants, typical of settlers' gardens, are not widely found in Canadian gardens today. Other plants such as sedum, lamb's ears, and soapwort—garden escapees now growing in nearby fields and ditches—have also found their way into Larkwhistle garden.

The two men have taken note of native plants growing in the forests and fields around them. But rather than planting those particular varieties, they have scanned the catalogues in search of unusual cultivated varieties of those local, native species. As a result, Larkwhistle has four varieties of trilliums, and several dog-toothed violets.

Local dolostone, a magnesium-rich limestone, has been used to build many of the Peninsula's historic buildings, such as St. Margaret's Church near Cape Chin. John and Patrick have collected the same rock from old foundations and nearby fields to build themselves a modest, two-room house. The limestone also appears as edging and stone patios throughout the garden.

The rocks have a beneficial effect on the plants. Creeping, mat-like thymes find cool, moist conditions for their roots under the rocks, while the rock surface stores the sun's heat for the plants. The soft limestone slowly gives up its nutrients to the plants.

The use of local plants and rocks, blended with other plants that suit the rigorous Bruce Peninsula growing conditions, give Larkwhistle a natural feeling, enhancing the sparse beauty of the local landscape.

Patrick Lima describes their philosophy in simple terms: the garden is an expression of the northern Escarpment, built around its soil, climate, and plant species.

In spite of this philosophy, a few non-native plants thrive at Larkwhistle as well. One is agapanthus, or Lily of the Nile. It is a tropical plant, and Patrick is surprised that it has re-appeared every spring for the last three years. He attributes the plant's success to a good protective snow cover in winter.

By late October, John and Patrick begin putting Larkwhistle to bed for the winter. Plants are moved to new locations, and the beds are cleaned up. They leave for the winter, with dreams of March, when they return to begin another season of gardening and weekends of visits with those who find their way to the garden's remote site. A little-known secret is Larkwhistle's Victoria Day weekend plant sale, which officially opens their season.

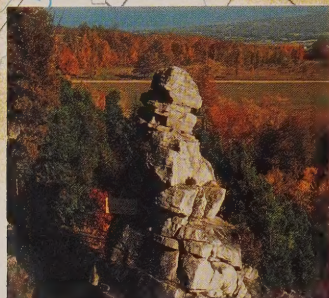
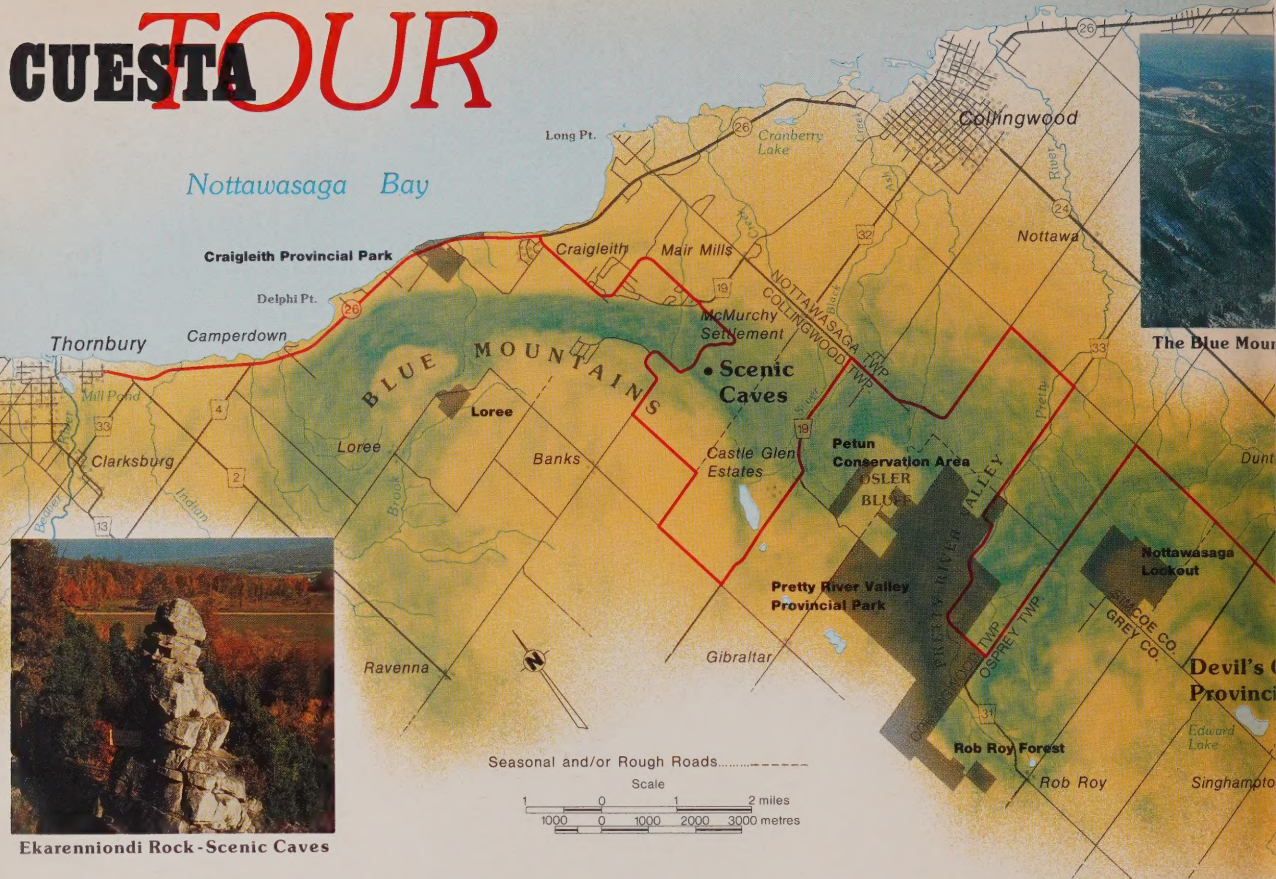
Larkwhistle was formally opened to the public in 1983, but the horticultural knowledge gained in the preceding eight years of intensive gardening led John and Patrick into other endeavours. Patrick became a regular contributor of gardening articles to Harrowsmith magazine, while John, an artist, pursued an interest in photography by documenting Larkwhistle's evolution.

Their writing and photography were combined to produce the award-winning book, "The Harrowsmith Illustrated Book of Herbs" published in 1986.

Larkwhistle is open to visitors on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holiday Mondays through the growing season. To get to the garden, follow Highway 6 north from Wiarton. About 2 kilometres past Miller Lake, turn right on the Dyer's Bay Road. At the end of the road, Larkwhistle signs will guide you the rest of the way.



# CUESTA TOUR



Ekarenniondi Rock - Scenic Caves

## EXPLORING THE ESCARPMENT FROM THE HIGH COUNTY TO THE BAY

COME WITH US AS WE WANDER through the hills and valleys of one of the lesser known but most scenic segments of the Niagara Escarpment. From Primrose, on Hwy. 10 north of Orangeville, to the charming town of Thornbury at the mouth of the Beaver Valley, we'll travel through Dufferin, Ontario's "high county" and Simcoe County's beautiful Nottawasaga Township, then through Blue Mountain down to the shoreline of Nottawasaga Bay.

As we travel these uncrowded country roads we'll visit five Escarpment parks; picturesque villages nestled in river valleys; a pioneer cemetery; shaded forest drives, and countless other spots where you'll want to stop and explore or simply enjoy the view. (Leave yourself plenty of time to cover the 100 or so kilometres of the tour. You're in for a treat!)

This is a journey of contrasts—expect the unexpected around every turn. We'll take you along quiet roads that dip down into wide valleys where streams and rivers meander alongside, then climb to heights where breathtaking views unfold. We'll

pause in ghost towns and busy resorts. We'll pass by gingerbread trimmed houses from an earlier architectural era and pass peaceful farmland lined with split rail fences. We'll stop at country stores where the coffee is always fresh and the pies are homemade. We'll find hiking trails and trout streams and antique stores.

Our tour ends on the shores of Nottawasaga Bay in the town of Thornbury. Here, in the heart of Ontario's apple country, Thornbury and its adjacent neighbour, Clarksburg have interesting shops, restaurants and parks to visit.

A word of caution before we begin—there are often long stretches between communities, so gas up your car before setting out.

We've broken our directions into segments to make them easier to follow but don't just stop where we do—this is less a tour between points of interest than it is a trip to be enjoyed for its own sake.

Load your camera, pack your gear, set your car's odometer, and let's go!

### TOUR DIRECTIONS

**Primrose to Whitfield:** Beginning at the Primrose lights at Hwys. 10 and 89, proceed east on Hwy. 89 for about 3 km. At the first road, turn left onto the 1st Line EHS (East of Hurontario Street). As you travel north, the Boyne Valley Provincial Park is on your left. The Bruce Trail passes through this natural, undeveloped park. Continue north on the 1st Line for about 7 km until you reach the stop sign. Turn left onto the 10th Sideroad and travel west. The Whitfield Church is on your right at the first crossroads. The church and the pioneer cemetery are all that remain of the once vibrant village of Whitfield.

**Whitfield to the Pine River Valley:** Leaving the Whitfield church continue west again to the next corner and turn right onto the 1st Line West. Travel north for 2 km as the road drops into the valley. Turn right at the stop sign onto River Road. The Pine River Fishing Area is on your left. With its fish ladders and lake, this provincially-owned site is open for public fishing and picnicking.

**Pine River Valley to Terra Nova:** Stay on the River Road as it twists and turns along the valley, and enters the hamlet of Terra Nova. The general store at the crossroads is worth a stop.





Along the shore



Boyne Valley Provincial Park



Mad River Valley



The view from the Ruskview Road



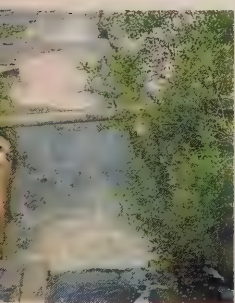
Church in Dunedin



len Provincial Park



Glen Huron mill pond



ers at Pine River



Pioneer cemetery at Whitfield



# EXPLORING THE ESCARPMENT

## COME ALONG...

**Terra Nova to Ruskview:** At the Terra Nova general store crossroads, swing north onto the 2nd Line EHS. This road steadily climbs the Escarpment for 3 km to the Ruskview stop sign. Turn left at the stop sign onto the 25th Sideroad. Pull off the road to enjoy the scenery to the south and east. Ruskview, settled in 1848, declined like Whitfield when larger towns became more accessible. Little remains of the village but the view over the Pine River Valley and beyond is spectacular.

**Ruskview to Dunedin:** Proceed west on the 25th Sideroad for about 4 km. The road dips into a stream valley and then rises again. At the top of the rise turn right onto Centre Line, Mulmur. After travelling north for about 4 km you come to a stop sign marking the Simcoe/Dufferin county

**Glen Huron to Devil's Glen:** Continue on County Road 62 out of Glen Huron for about 2 km to the junction with Hwy. 24. Turn left onto the highway, following the directional sign for south and proceed for about 1½ km to the marked entrance to Devil's Glen Provincial Park on your left. This small, scenic park has camping, picnic sites, hiking trails and spectacular Escarpment scenery.

**Devil's Glen to Pretty River Valley:** Leaving the park, turn left again onto Hwy. 24 and proceed for about another 1½ km, then turn right onto the 10th Line. Continue north on this road for about 7 km to the junction with County Road 30 & 31. Turn left onto 30 & 31 and proceed west for about 6 km. Osler Bluff is to your right across the Pretty River valley.

**Osler Bluff to the Scenic Caves:** Proceed west along Grey Road 19 for about 6 km, past the Castle Glen Estates then turn right onto Concession Road 4. After about 2 km, turn right again at the first turning. Travel along this quiet, shaded road for about 1½ km, then turn left. After another 2 km swing right at the T-intersection. The road curls left and then around the top of Blue Mountain with wide views of the hills and bay. The entrance to the scenic caves is on the right. The site also includes panoramic views, snack bar, playground and picnic area.

**Scenic Caves to Craigeleith:** Leaving the caves' site, turn right and follow the road as it heads down the mountain. At the base of the hill, swing right to the stop sign, then left onto County Road 19. Pro-



ceed for about 6 km, past the Blue Mountain Ski Resort, until you reach the junction of Hwy. 26. Turn left onto the highway; the entrance to Craigeleith Provincial Park is about 2 km along on the right. Situated on the bay, this provincial park has facilities for camping and picnics plus swimming and fishing in its clear waters.

**Dunedin to Glen Huron:** Leaving Dunedin continue north on County Road 9 to the first stop sign. Turn left onto County Road 62, following the directional sign for Glen Huron. Proceed north for about 7 km as the road dips into the Mad River Valley and the community of Glen Huron.

ceed for about 6 km, past the Blue Mountain Ski Resort, until you reach the junction of Hwy. 26. Turn left onto the highway; the entrance to Craigeleith Provincial Park is about 2 km along on the right. Situated on the bay, this provincial park has facilities for camping and picnics plus swimming and fishing in its clear waters.

**Pretty River to Osler Bluff:** Travel along the valley floor to the first stop sign. This marks the county line between Grey and Simcoe. As you proceed through the stop sign, staying on the same road, it becomes Simcoe County Road 33. Continue east for another 4 km or so, then turn left onto Nottawasaga Concession 10. Head north for about 1 km then turn left at the first turn. This road heads toward Osler Bluff, then swings right around the base of the hill past the ski lifts and chalets. After about 5½ km on this road, turn left at the marked turn onto Grey County Road 19.

**Craigeleith to Thornbury:** Leaving the park, turn right onto the highway. As you continue northwest along the base of Blue Mountain, the Georgian Peaks Ski area is to your left and the bay can be seen through the trees to the right. There are several roads leading off the highway to the right that will take you down to the shore. The town of Thornbury is about 10 km along the highway.



# OUT of the LIMELIGHT

*Story by Rilla Hewer   Photos from the John McDonald Collection*



*Near the peaceful village of Limehouse, west of  
Georgetown, stand silent and eerie ruins. Once a part  
of a vital and flourishing industry, they were hives of  
activity in their heyday as fires burned around the  
clock, and hundreds of men*



laboured to dig out the rock and load the hoppers. Eventually as 19th century methods gave way to modern technology, they were shut down and abandoned. But the story of the limekilns offers a brief glimpse into our past and provides another example of the impact of the Niagara Escarpment on that past.

The process of making lime is at least as old as recorded history. The ancient Egyptians, Babylonians and Greeks all knew that by heating limestone over a very hot fire, grinding the "cooked" rock and mixing it with sand and water they could make mortar—an essential building tool.

The chemistry involved is basic and remains the same whether the kiln is primitive or sophisticated: limestone plus heat equals lime and carbon dioxide. The process of separating out the carbon dioxide is called "calcining" and for it to begin the temperature must be at least 750°F.

early industrialists looked to that huge outcrop of useable stone—the Niagara Escarpment.

Limestone is a bedded sedimentary rock, consisting chiefly of calcium carbonate. The surface rock of the Niagara Escarpment is actually dolostone, similar to limestone but more durable as a result of its high magnesium content. This characteristic made for very strong mortar, plaster and cement.

The early kilns that produced lime commercially along the hills and slopes of the Escarpment were little more than spaces dug out of the sides of hills and lined with heat-resistant rock. The top of the kiln was made level with the floor of the quarry above so cartloads of stone could be dumped in at the top and lime drawn off at the bottom. The process was slow and used large quantities of fuel.

In the 1840's more refined set kilns had



The higher the temperature, the faster calcining takes place, with complete decomposition of the limestone occurring at 1300°F.

The first kilns in Ontario were rough but effective affairs. As the early settlers cleared the land, logs from the felled trees were heaped up into huge piles. A framework was built above the logs, and limestone boulders were hauled to the site by horse or oxen. The boulders, after being broken into smaller chunks, were placed on the frame and the wood set alight. The fire was kept burning over several days, also providing a practical means of getting rid of unwanted wood. After the lime had cooked it was ground into powder, often still containing bits of unburnt stone, and used to make mortar or cement to "chink" the spaces in log houses and barns.

As Ontario settlements grew and prospered the need for lime grew too, and

come into use. There were five of these short, squat structures in use at Limehouse by 1850. Set kilns had a rough stone exterior enclosing a pot-like hole usually about 10 feet deep and 8 feet across. Often the kilns were built in a series, one on top of another. The rock "cooked" on a grate that ran from the front to the back and kept the stone above the fire. One set kiln could hold about 800 bushels of rock and consume up to 20 cords of wood over the three to four day burning time. Another several days were required to cool the pot down before the lime could be removed, the fires stoked and the cycle started again.

Thirty years later, draw or shaft kilns represented another advancement in kiln technology. With stone walls six feet thick and braced against bulging caused by the heat, these kilns were over 50 feet high with a base of approximately 18 by 20 feet. The top of the kiln was level with the



quarry and ramps were built to allow rock to be dumped directly into the kiln hopper. Wood was fed in through the fire holes to the level of the grate that separated rock from fire and arches at the bottom permitted carts to be loaded with lime directly as it was drawn out of the kiln. After an initial three day start-up to get the fire hot enough, the manufacture of lime in a large draw kiln was a continuous process—rock in the top, wood through the fire door, lime lumps drawn off the bottom. It went on without break, day and night, only stopping when the firebox of the kiln needed relining.

The carbon dioxide released in the production of lime is heavier than air and if the production was to be efficient some kind of system was required to draw this gas away. At Limehouse, water was pumped from a well into a millpond and waterpower used to turn fans that acted as giant bellows in-

and more costly. Coal was an alternative but it too was costly and required more sophisticated venting systems. As the industry became less profitable, the small kiln operators were bought out by larger concerns who could invest in larger, more modern kilns. The kilns at Limehouse had ceased production by 1918 and by the end of the twenties the era of the draw kiln was over—a victim of changing times and technology.

The Niagara Escarpment, of course, remains a source of useful rock. The underlying shale is used for making bricks, tile and other ceramic products. The great deposits of sand and gravel left along the Escarpment by the glaciers are open-pit mined for mineral aggregate. Escarpment rock is quarried for building stone and is the major source of crushed dolostone in southern Ontario. Crushed dolostone has many uses and among them is still the




side the kilns. The millpond also served as a ready source of water in case of fire—an ever-present danger.

The lime produced at Limehouse was sold in two forms—lump lime and water lime. Lump lime was simply chunks, some the size of cement blocks. Water lime was lump lime ground into a fine powder ready to be mixed with other materials. Lime, also known as “quick lime”, is a dry white or grey substance. It is a strong alkali that reacts chemically with either water or acid. Among other things lime was employed in the building industry and as a disinfectant, bleach, whitewash and in the manufacture of glass.

In the early part of the twentieth century Limehouse was booming with ten kilns in full operation but even then the end was in sight. The major source of fuel for the draw and set kilns was wood and as local sources were depleted, imports grew more

manufacture of lime.

Today's high capacity gas-fired kilns are models of modern efficiency. Temperatures inside reach as high as 2500°F causing complete decomposition of the stone. The tons of lime produced are used in the manufacture of pulp and paper, steel and other metals, and in water filtration plants. Although lime is still needed to make building materials, almost 90% of it goes for use as a basic industrial chemical.

The kilns at Limehouse are cold and crumbling now. The lands surrounding them are part of a conservation area owned by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority and used by hikers and cross-country skiers. Today these relics from another day serve as reminders of an earlier chapter in the industrial history of southern Ontario's mighty giant's rib—the Niagara Escarpment. 





# The Eloquent Art of George McL

by Rilla Hewer

MAYBE IT'S LESS DEFINED, A LITTLE less spectacular than Beaver Valley to the south. But to Niagara Escarpment artist George McLean the Bighead Valley's wide vistas, rolling wooded hills and quiet beauty are where he finds inspiration for his art, just outside his door.

In his studio on the top floor of a lovingly restored 19th century stone farmhouse, McLean paints images from a world he has come to know intimately. No matter what the season—even in the harsh Grey County winters—he is out ranging the woods, stopping to examine, study, sketch, photograph, collect. "Everything I need is here," he says, "water, rocks, trees, moss, leaves—everything."

The natural world is more than subject matter to McLean. His knowledge and love of this world and the birds and animals which inhabit it are surpassed by a fierce commitment to their defence. He has lived in the country for twenty years, but he still has the "streetsmart" brashness of his

DETAIL: RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD, 1972 (21"X14")





# McLEAN

youth from growing up in Toronto's tough Parkdale neighbourhood. "As a kid, I learned diplomacy first," he says with a grin, "then how to run fast, and finally how to fight."

And fight he still does, with his words and his work. McLean and his wife, Helen, now own a hundred acres in the valley and the artist is an outspoken advocate for preservation and conservation. They want to buy more land to protect it from what he calls the excesses of the logger and developer. With much of his own land reforested, McLean says that he is not opposed to logging, just to bad management. He likes the concept that no one really owns land—that it is held in trust for future generations.

The most eloquent expression of McLean's concerns can be found in his paintings. The first and perhaps strongest impact of any McLean painting is its reality. Not the photographic, every-feather-and-blade-of-grass-in-place sort of reality, but a

truth filtered through the psyche of a skilled artist with a profound understanding of nature.

If at times the natural world that McLean portrays in his paintings is violent, or has the potential for violence, that too is reality. He is not here to judge the elemental struggle to survive which is a part of nature.

McLean is no sentimentalist. The creatures he paints—whether a stately owl or a scruffy crow, a bright-eyed fox or a skittish squirrel—are portrayed with an affection that is tempered with a sure knowledge of animal behaviour.

Since the beginning of his career at age eighteen, George McLean has painted what he says he simply must paint. Even in the days before wildlife art was widely popular, McLean was answering an inner need to depict the creatures of nature. Haunting the museums, the galleries, the libraries, he studied the great wildlife masters—Bruno Liljefors, Leo-Paul Roberts, John James Audubon. Today he follows in the footsteps of these "spiritual ancestors" and builds on their tradition.

His paintings (rendered in casein on prepared masonite panels) emerge slowly and painstakingly, often at the rate of only



A NARROW ESCAPE, 1983 (38" x 29")

*If at times the world that McLean portrays is violent, or has the potential for violence, that too is reality.*





DETAIL: SHORT-EARED OWL LANDING, 1980

three or four each year. His completed works usually go directly to waiting buyers, so his public showings are infrequent.

The years when he struggled to make a living with his art are over for George McLean. In 1983 he was elected a member of Canada's leading artists' honour society, the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts. But success is only important to McLean because it means that he can keep doing what he must do, and paint what he must paint.

If George McLean was until recently something of a well-kept secret, this is certainly no longer the case. As more prints of his work are made available, a wider public is learning what many in the art world have long known; George McLean is quite simply one of the best Canadian wildlife artists working today. Noted art critic, Christopher Hume, has called him "an accomplished practitioner of this demanding artform", and has said that, "McLean paintings transcend the genre."

A McLean painting has been selected as the image for Wildlife Habitat Canada's 1987 stamp. McLean approves of the practicality of this project, which over its first two years has raised ten million dollars for the improvement of wildlife habitats. Another group benefitting from the artist's talents is Ducks Unlimited, a non-profit organization that funds wetlands' preservation projects. "They are successful, self-sufficient and in the end it is results that count," says McLean. He is currently working on a painting for a plate to be used as a Ducks Unlimited fundraiser.

Images of the birds and animals which inhabit the natural areas of the Niagara Escarpment can be frozen in photographs, but to capture their essence demands the soul, the eye and the skilled hand of the artist. George McLean is more than equal to the task.



MARCH HAWK ON FENCE, 1987 (5'X3')



# NIAGARA ESCARPMENT PLAN UPDATE

THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT PLAN, Canada's first large-scale environmental land-use plan, will celebrate its third anniversary this year.

Set in place by the Ontario government in June, 1985 to provide for conservation and ways to integrate compatible development along the Niagara Escarpment, the plan continues to evolve as a viable framework for preservation in harmony with our use and enjoyment of this priceless international resource.

The Niagara Escarpment is the sturdy rim of a shallow prehistoric sea which covered a vast area of Southern Ontario and Michigan some 450 million years ago. Its 725-kilometre length bisects the southern portion of the province, creating a geologic and ecological landscape that is unique in Canada.

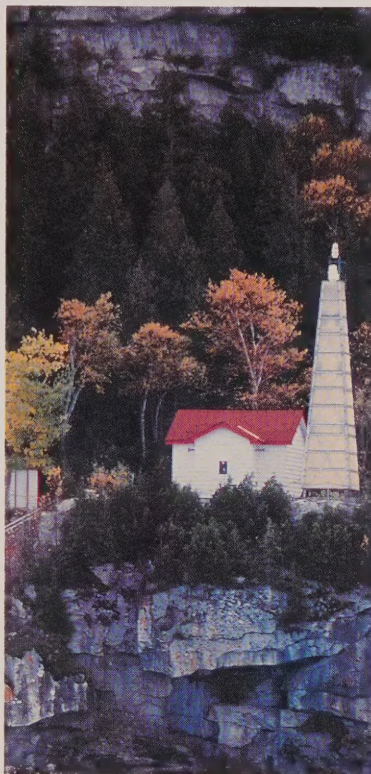
This precious link to the ages was officially recognized in 1973 when The Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act was proclaimed, to ensure that the Escarpment and lands in its vicinity should be preserved substantially as a continuous natural environment.

The Niagara Escarpment Commission as the front line agency responsible for implementing the Plan has the most direct contact with landowners, municipalities, public interest groups and individuals who enjoy the bounty of the Escarpment.

The Commission is itself responsible to the Legislature of Ontario through the Minister of Municipal Affairs, and there are a number of other ministries and agencies working closely to implement the Plan: the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Culture and Communications, and the Ontario Heritage Foundation are all key players along with the Ministries of the Environment, Agriculture & Food, Tourism & Recreation and others.

The Ontario Heritage Foundation plays an essential role in advancing the Niagara Escarpment Program via a special Niagara Escarpment Committee formed three years ago when the Plan was approved. The committee administers a 10-year, \$25 million trust fund earmarked by the Ontario government for the acquisition of lands to complete the Niagara Escarpment Parks System and for supporting conservation of significant natural and cultural properties. Part of the fund is allocated to projects that promote wise land management and which increase public education and appreciation with respect to the Escarpment.

## *Planning the Future, Treasuring the Past*



Significant progress has been made implementing the Plan over the past three years.

In the eight counties and regions and 37 local municipalities in the Escarpment area, the Plan takes precedence over local official plans. A co-operative effort between the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Niagara Escarpment Commission and municipal, regional and county governments is underway to bring these local plans into conformity with the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

In the meantime, the Commission is working with Municipal Affairs to make the Plan amendment process more responsive and effective.

With respect to rural area development, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Minister of Agriculture and Food are look-

ing at the question of farmers subdividing land for "retirement lots". The Niagara Escarpment Commission's sub-committee that proposed clarifying these policies and making them more equitable to bona fide farmers included six Commission members who have farm operations on or near the Escarpment.

Also important to the rural economy—and to bringing visitors to the Escarpment—is the definition of in-home tourist accommodations. The Commission has initiated a Plan amendment to provide policies for this important sector of tourism.

Extraction from pits and quarries in rural areas along the Escarpment is rightly a matter of public concern as well as being a public benefit. The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Commission have been working together to improve the review procedures for Ministry of Transportation wayside pits—temporary, nearby sources of aggregate for public road construction.

Communication is fundamental to the success of the Niagara Escarpment Plan so a series of policy dialogues was launched in the fall of 1987. In November 1987, conservation authorities, municipal elected representatives and their planning administrators, and the Provincial agencies in the Plan, met in Burlington and Kimberley to discuss Escarpment concerns. The series was completed in April 1988, with a similar forum for public interest groups.

With public and school education at the forefront of Plan objectives, work has started on a comprehensive education program for use in elementary schools, their affiliated outdoor-education centres and in Escarpment parks.

The Niagara Escarpment Parks System continues to consolidate its land-base through purchases from "willing sellers", under the co-ordination of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

There are lands at both ends of the Escarpment under consideration for inclusion in the Escarpment Parks System. Among the candidates are seven sites near Waterdown—including the Royal Botanical Gardens—and the Kolapore Uplands in Grey County.

Equally important is securing the route of the Bruce Trail, which provides Canada's oldest and longest hiking trail, extending the full length of the Niagara Escarpment.

A special team of Bruce Trail Association and Ministry of Natural Resources staff has been assembled to develop a strategy.



